UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,863	01/05/2001	Marise Chan	60001.0005US01	3683

27488	7590	11/14/2006

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EXAMINER
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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 09/755,863
Filing Date: January 05, 2001
Appellant(s): CHAN ET AL.

Roger T. Frost of Merchant & Gould, LLC
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 8/15/2006 appealing from the Office action mailed 1/11/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

The statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

The evidence relied upon by the examiner for the claim rejections under appeal are:

- Brian Underdahl, "Using Quattro Pro 6 for Windows" Published by Que Corporation, 1994, pages 15, 172, 174, 175 and 192-194.

- "Word Perfect V6.1 User's Guide" published by Novell Inc., 1994, page 60.

- "Corel Draw" published by Corel Corporation, 1992, pages 23-25.

- "Microsoft Excel 2000" software, copyright 1985-1999, software screen captures by the examiner.

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

- Claims 2 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brian Underdahl *"Using Quattro Pro 6 for Windows"* (hereinafter

Underdahl) in view of *"WordPerfect V6.1 User's Guide"* (hereinafter
WordPerfect V6.1).

- Claim 5 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
  over Underdahl in view of WordPerfect V6.1, and in further view of *"Corel
  Draw"* (hereinafter Corel).

- Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
  over Underdahl in view of WordPerfect V6.1, in view of Corel and in further
  view of Microsoft Excel 2000 (the spreadsheet application) as depicted in the
  screen captures created by the examiner, the copyright of the application
  being 1985-1999 (hereinafter Excel).

(10) Response to Argument

Appellant argues that the combination of Underdahl and WordPerfect V6.1 fails
to disclose the claimed features of independent claims 2 and 22 (Brief, pages 7-11).
Specifically, appellant states: *"Underdahl does not disclose a computer-implemented
method to determine formatting characteristics of a selected cell and apply those
formatting characteristics to fields in a dialog box in response to selecting the cell, as
required by Claim 2"* (page 8, middle of the page, of the Brief filed 8/15/2006).

Underdahl is a training manual for spreadsheet program. Underdahl discloses
selecting a cell of a spreadsheet (page 15, third paragraph). Underdahl discloses a
dialog box for a selected cell of a spreadsheet, where the dialog box includes formatting
information for the selected cell. Underdahl recites: *"highlight the cell or block. Then*

click the right mouse button inside the cell or block or press F12 to open the Active

Block Object Inspector dialog box" (page 193, seventh paragraph). Underdahl's "*Active*

Block Inspector" is shown in Figure 6.7 on page 194. The Active Block Inspector is a

dialog box where the formatting characteristics of the selected cell are shown over a

plurality fields, including "*Numeric Format*", "*Font*", "*Shading*", "*Alignment*", etc.

Appellant argues that Underdahl is directed toward applying formatting

characteristics to a spreadsheet cell, because the section quoted from Underdahl is

related to showing the novice user how controlling the number of decimal places for the

cell affects the rounding and truncating of the value displayed in the cell. However,

Underdahl recites: "*If no number format has been assigned, the default General format*

is checked" ((page 193, seventh paragraph). The "*General Format*" is a formatting

characteristic, which is shown in a dialog box for the selected cell.

Underdahl discloses a "*Find/Replace*" feature (page 174). However, Underdahl

dose not disclose the ability to Find/Replace based upon formatting settings.

WordPerfect V6.1 teaches using Find/Replace based upon format settings. WordPerfect

V6.1 recites: "*The Codes option lets you find and replace any codes regardless of*

values the codes may contain. For example, if you search for a font size code, any font

size code will be found. You can search for more than one code at a time or for a

combination of words and codes" (page 160, third paragraph).

Appellant argues that the combination of Underdahl, WordPerfect V6.1 and Corel

fail to disclose the claimed features of dependent claims 5 and 21 (Brief, pages 12-13).

Changing the shape of the cursor to indicate a change in functionality associated with

the cursor is well known in the art. Corel provides an example of this functionality. A palette of tools available to the user is shown by Corel at the bottom of page 23. A user would select one of the tools shown to activate the tool's function, which is represented by a distinct shape change for the cursor. Applicant's claim 21 recites: "*selecting an option ... in response to selecting the option, changing the shape of the cursor from a first shape to a second shape distinct from the first ... whereby the distinct shape denotes to a user*". Corel discloses selecting an option, which causes the cursor shape to change, and denotes a change functionality for the cursor.
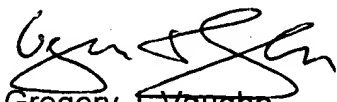
(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.
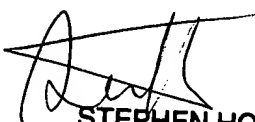
For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.
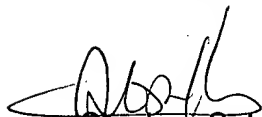
Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. Vaughn
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178
November 9, 2006

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